

CMS Publishes Nursing Home Quality Measures and more

CMS has provided information about nursing homes since October 1998 on [Medicare.gov - Nursing Home Compare - Geography Questions](#). We encourage consumers to review the data at Nursing Home Compare, which includes health inspections, complaint findings and nurse staffing. The quality measure data that enables beneficiaries, their caregivers, and families to choose a nursing home is based on information relevant to both long-stay (chronic) and short-stay (typically Medicare-covered). The quality measures represent the best available science and include a risk adjustment methodology. This quality data is one source of information for consumers to use in choosing a nursing home. Consumers should visit nursing homes in person before selection. Additionally, Quality Improvement Organizations in each state are assisting nursing homes to use the data to implement quality improvement strategies. Users can search for nursing homes by State, County, City, Zip Code, or Name. Proximity searches from 0-500 miles are also available when searches are made on City or ZIP Code.

Initial Launch date October 1998

CMS Publishes Home Health Quality Measures

CMS launched Home Health Compare nationally at [CMS HHA Compare](#) in October 2003. Home Health Compare contains information about Medicare-certified home health agencies. Specific information includes the name, address, and phone number of the agency; Medicare-covered services offered by the agency; the agency's initial date of Medicare certification; and type of ownership. Home health quality measures are available for all Medicare certified home health agencies in the nation.

Initial Launch date October 2003

Dialysis Facility Compare

The Dialysis Facility Compare tool was initially launched in January 2001 at [CMS Dialysis Facility Compare](#) in June 2004 CMS updated the format of the tool that now provides simpler navigation. Users will be able to find facility services and quality measures. Facility services include address and telephone number, shifts starting at 5 PM or later (if you need your treatments in the evening), the number of treatment stations, and the types of dialysis offered (in-center hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home hemodialysis training). Quality measures reported are the percent of patients at a facility with a Urea Reduction Ratio (URR) of 65 or greater known as adequacy of hemodialysis, percent of patients treated with medicine for anemia with a hematocrit of 33 or greater, and patient survival information. Users can search for dialysis facilities by State, County, City, Zip Code, or Name. Proximity searches are now available when searches are made on City or Zip Code.

Initial Launch date January 2001

Hospital Compare launched March 31, 2005

CMS launched Hospital Compare tool March 31, 2005. This is *“A quality tool for adults, including people with Medicare.”* It can be found at [CMS Hospital Compare](#). The tool provides consumers with quality of care information on 17 quality measures in three clinical conditions. The clinical conditions are heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia. The quality of care information comes from hospitals that submitted their data voluntarily. Hospitals can vary in the quality of care they provide. This website was created to help users see how well the hospitals in their area care for their patients. This information helps users compare the quality of care hospitals provide. Users are encouraged to talk about this information with their doctor, family, and friends to help them make their best hospital care decisions.

Initial Launch date March 31, 2005

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